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A NON-PARTISAN DEMAND.

There is a growing demand that neither party make either definite or indefinite promise of future independence for the Filipinos, says the Post Intelligence. This feeling is absolutely independent of party. It is a result of the tendency of the times. And that tendency is toward aggregation.

As a matter of fact that has been the tendency of all times, from the day that primitive men began banding themselves into tribes for better protection against a common enemy. And the higher the type of social and commercial life the more marked is the tendency to aggregation. And the farther this tendency is carried, too, the greater and more powerful the aggregated product becomes.

As an independent nation the Philippines would always be weak. The commanding position and the wealth of the archipelago would make its very existence as an independent nation a temptation to Europe and a menace to the peace of the world. As a portion of a great power, the Philippines are protected from greed from without and from ignorance and its accompanying dangers from within.

In the face of conditions and of laws which were made for man instead of by man the independence of the Philippines would not long continue. Left to themselves they would sooner or later fall into Russian, German or Japanese hands.

Centralization, consolidation, aggregation—call it what you will—are modifications of evolution's stupendous process of integration by which completeness, organization, the relatively simple and the homogeneous were wrought from the one time universal chaos. A little over a century ago we were thirteen colonies, a little strip along one coast of this continent. The yielding to the tendency toward aggregation built a nation of common people, a common country, of common impulse and common thought from sea to sea. Had the voice that is loudest in demand of Philippine independence, now, today, been obeyed 100 years ago, the western borders of this nation at this time would be the crest of the Alleghenies, if, indeed, it had not been swallowed up by some other state established in some other part of the American continent.

THE PROBLEM OF RAILROAD ACCIDENTS.

Writing in the North American Review of the appalling number of fatalities on American railroads, Congressman John J. Esch asks if this casualty list cannot be reduced by legislation. His unhesitating answer is in the affirmative. He buttresses his argument with an interesting array of figures. He recalls that in 1889 congress took up the matter of providing better protection for trainmen, the result being the legislation of 1893 and 1903, which has had the expected effect of largely reducing the casualties among this class of railway operatives.

Mr. Esch urges laws extending additional protection to all railway employees. He points out the large number of accidents last year that were due to excessive hours that men were kept on duty, to the employment of young and inexperienced men. These overworked and incompetent men were the ones, as a rule, who misread or disobeyed orders and ignored signals. Mr. Esch thinks that laws forbidding the employment of boys and incompetents and making a misreading or ignoring of orders a punishable offense would remedy matters. Recalling that passengers in Pullman cars are practically immune from danger in case of collision, while the ordinary coaches are smashed into kindling wood, he also recommends national legislation on car construction, and by the same means would compel the universal adoption of double tracks and the block system. This latter recommendation re-enforces that already made by the interstate commerce commission, and congress will be asked to act on it this winter.

The Chicago Inter-Ocean, commenting on Mr. Esch's suggestions, truly remarks that better discipline and more intelligent direction on the railways would remedy many of the evils without resorting to new legislation.

THE PHILIPPINE TARIFF.

The report of the committee that was appointed

late last year to revise the Philippines tariff is now in the hands of the war department at Washington. The rates and schedules that the committee has adopted are merely tentative, and the war department invites suggestions and recommendations thereon from everybody interested in commerce in the Philippine islands.

The most noteworthy changes that are reported are in the direction of substituting, in part or in whole, ad valorem for specific duties on certain articles, the object being to correct "inequalities" in present duties on such articles. This apparently is a step in the right direction, but whether it will result in giving an impulse to trade and industry in the Philippines can be better determined when the government shall have acted on the matter.

The progress of the Philippines in this respect has been somewhat of a disappointment. While it has been in favorable contrast with that which was made under Spanish rule, it has not been as rapid as was to have been expected under American rule. This has been due in considerable measure to the tariff policy that we have imposed on these islands—a policy that has been dictated to some extent by regard for industrial interests of our own country rather than those of the Philippines. This is a mistaken policy, if our object is to make the Filipinos contented under the American flag.

It is to be hoped that the war department's invitation for suggestions and recommendations in connection with the Philippines commission's report will meet with a response suitable to the importance of the subject. Fair treatment of the Filipinos in the way of helping them to make the most of their material resources will probably contribute more than anything else toward doing away with the need of maintaining a large armed force in that archipelago.

SOME REMARKABLE SIEGES.

If Port Arthur falls today or holds out until January, the story of the siege, when compared with others, will be dull and commonplace. Stoessel may fight until he and his last man are dead, but such has been the ending of other sieges. The Japanese may carry the forts by assault, but that will establish no new record in the history of sieges, declares the Examiner.

Port Arthur has been invested by sea and land since June 7.

The siege of Jerusalem, under Titus and Vespasian, lasted two years, and the besieged Jews fought one another within the walls, and beat off the Romans without, this length of time before the final assault.

If Stoessel and his men die fighting, our own Alamo will not be eclipsed. The inscription over the old mission in the San Antonio plaza is "Thermopylae had one survivor; the Alamo, none."

Hannibal, at the close of the siege of Saguntum, killed all the defending garrison and destroyed the city.

Homer's mythical (?) siege of Troy lasted 10 years.

The English defended Gibraltar three years against a French and Spanish army, and then the siege was raised.

Sevastopol was defended by the Russians 11 months. The French lost 45,000 men in the assaults and the English 15,000. The Russians never surrendered, but evacuated the place.

The siege of Petersburg began on June 9, 1864, and Grant's army was beaten off by the confederates for nine months. The garrison withdrew on April 2. Petersburg is almost without a parallel in history.

The siege of Paris lasted 132 days.

One of the remarkable sieges was that of Fort Erie, in our war of 1812. The English surrounded the fort and assaulted it at intervals for 30 days. At the end of this time the Americans got their fighting clothes on, came out of the fort and broke up the English army.

Stoessel may hold on until the Russians come down next summer and relieve him, or he may die with all of his garrison, but the history of the siege of Port Arthur will present no new feature.

It will be merely another record of blood and death, and of the folly of man—showing him to be a savage, like his forbears at Saguntum, Jerusalem, Paris or Petersburg, instead of the civilized creature he in his pride and ignorance proclaims himself to be.

The following editorial utterance from the New York Commercial is a sample of the many odd paragraphs which have been appearing since the election, and the meaning of which is, perhaps, not hard to guess: General Grant was elected in 1872 by a popular plurality of 763,000 in a total vote that was only about 40 per cent as large as that which was cast in the recent election, and he received a majority in the electoral college of 223; yet four years later Samuel J. Tilden received a popular majority of 250,000 for president and was defeated in the electoral college by the bare majority of one. Overwhelming as has been President Roosevelt's victory in the last campaign, it is just as well to keep in mind that a lot of things are likely to occur in the course of the next four years to change the current of political sentiment in this country.

What has become of David Bennett Hill?

Mr. Swallow remains on the water wagon.

Swell Togs For Men.

P. A. STOKES

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Swell Togs For Men.

GOT THE RIGHT MAN.

Robber Captured Took Part in the Daring Holdup at Cody.

Omaha, Nov. 17.—G. W. Burch, a prominent merchant of Cody, Wyo., who is in this city, says that the man captured yesterday near Thermopola is one of the robbers who held up the Cody bank and who was concerned in the holdup at Thermopola. He says the description is identical with that of one of the men concerned in those affairs. Burch also denies that the robbers are being protected by friends in the Hole-in-the-wall country. He does not anticipate a lynching.

Save the La Imperial bands and get the diamond stud.

Breckenridge May Recover.

Lexington, Nov. 17.—The physicians who attended Col. W. C. Breckenridge said tonight that the patient had continued to improve during the day, and that, with prudence and quiet, they expected he would recover.

Save the La Imperial band and get the diamond stud.

Doesn't Respect Old Age.

It's shameful when youth fails to show proper respect for old age, but just the contrary in the case of Dr. King's New Life Pills. They cut off maladies no matter how severe and irrespective of old age. Dyspepsia, Jaundice, Fever, Constipation, all yield to these perfect pills. 25c, at Chas. Rogers' drug store

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